

Sylva Consultancy
expert arboricultural advice

Arboricultural Method Statement

27 Fairfax Close
Caversham
Reading
Berkshire
RG4 6DA

September 2018

Ref: 19098/AMS

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Issued: 17th July 2019



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1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Instructions have been received to compile an Arboricultural Method Statement (AMS) in order to support the submission with respect to a non material amendment to planning permission LPA Ref: 180762 at Fairfax Close, Reading.
- 1.2 During February 2018 a tree survey was carried out in accordance with British Standard 5837:2012 'Trees in relation to Design, Demolition and Construction-Recommendations' and good arboricultural practice. This is a basic data collection exercise and a record of the trees condition at the time of surveying. The 'Arboricultural Report' has been forwarded to the client.
- 1.3 This Arboricultural Method Statement is to provide details on the range of issues that are related to the proposed revised landscaping scheme and is aimed at providing site specific details with regard to the implementation.

2.0 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE

- 2.1 The site is located at the end of a cul de sac with residential properties located adjacent to the north, east, south and western boundaries. The ground slopes downwards in a southerly direction and away from the property.

3.0 TREE STOCK

- 3.1 A desk top study of information posted on Reading Borough Council's website (RBC) details that the site is not located within a Conservation Area. In addition the website reveals that no Tree Preservation Orders (TPO) are present on trees surveyed for the purposes of this report.
- 3.2 The Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981, as amended by the Countryside Rights of Way Act 2000, provides statutory protection to birds, bats and other species that inhabit trees. These have the potential to pose additional constraints on the use and timings of works that may occur to trees located at the site. These issues are beyond my expertise and it is recommended that appropriate advice is sought prior to the implementation of any works considered within this report.

4.0 PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

- 4.1 Planning permission has been granted for single storey rear extension and landscaping works. This AMS is to provide details with respect to the proposed amendments to the landscaping scheme
- 4.2 Please note all tree numbers referred to in this document relate to the tree numbers annotated on the Tree Protection Plan (Appendix 1).

5.0 TREE PROTECTION MEASURES

5.1 Pre-commencement site meeting

- 5.1.1 It is recommended that a pre-commencement of work site meeting with the Project Manager and Project Arboriculturalist is held prior to the instigation of works to view the tree protection measures. In addition, this meeting will provide the opportunity to consider whether additional tree protection measures are necessary.
- 5.1.2 Fence protection is sacrosanct and under no circumstances must this be moved unless written approval is obtained from the Project Arboriculturalist.

5.2 Tree protective fencing and tree protection plan

- 5.2.1 The protective fencing is to be installed in accordance with the proposal set out on Tree Protection Plan (Appendix 1). Fencing will be erected **prior** to any site works and must remain in situ and be fit for purpose for the duration of the development. The fencing must not be prematurely removed without prior consent of the Project Arboriculturalist or LA.
- 5.2.2 Copies of the Tree Protection Plan are to be made available for site personnel and for this to be displayed in the temporary contractor's compound area on site for all site personnel to see.
- 5.2.3 Due to the domestic nature of the development the fence protection will comprise of orange barricade fencing (Appendix 2).
- 5.2.4 Once the fencing is installed it must remain in situ throughout the duration of the construction. Where necessary and with the approval of the Project Arboriculturalist, the line of fencing might be temporarily taken down in order to facilitate an approved action such as the removal of an area of existing hard surface. Supervision by the Project Arboriculturalist must occur to oversee any additional processes.

5.3 Construction Exclusion Zone (CEZ)

- 5.3.1 This is the area based on the RPA as identified by the Arboriculturalist to be protected during the development, by the use of barriers and/or ground protection which is fit for purpose to ensure the successful long term retention of a tree/s within or adjacent to the development the site. The area within the Construction Exclusion Zone (CEZ) is to be regarded as sacrosanct, and the tree protective fencing should not be taken down or relocated at any time without the written approval of the LA.
- 5.3.2 In order to inform site personnel of the purpose of the fencing, information notices shall be fixed to the fencing at 5m intervals. These notices shall be of all-weather design and examples of the notices are at Appendix 3.

5.3.3 Within the Construction Exclusion Zone (CEZ) the following prohibitions will apply:

- **NO** mechanical digging or scraping.
- **NO** earthworks.
- **NO** fire lighting.
- **NO** hand digging (unless agreed in writing by the LA).
- **NO** storage of plant, equipment or materials.
- **NO** vehicular or plant access.
- **NO** washing down of vehicles or machinery.
- **NO** handling, discharging or spillage of any chemical substance including cement washings.
- **NO** action likely to cause localised waterlogging.
- **NO** changing of ground levels (unless agreed in writing by the LPA).
- **NO** construction of a hard surface (unless agreed in writing by the LPA).

5.3.4 In addition to the above, further precautions are necessary adjacent to trees outside the CEZ:

- Materials that will contaminate the soil such as concrete mixing, diesel spillage and vehicle washings, must not be discharged within 10m of a tree stem/s. This must take into account the topography of the site and the slopes to avoid toxic materials running towards a tree/s.
- Fires must not be lit in a position where their flames can extend to within 5 metres of the foliage, branches or trunk. This will depend on the size of the fire and the wind direction.
- Notice boards, telephone cables or other services should not be attached to any part of a tree/s.

5.4 Pre-development Tree Works

5.4.1 In accordance with British Standard 5837:2012 Section 8.8 recommends it has been determined that certain tree works would be beneficial for one or more of the following reasons:

- Avoidance of damage during the demolition and construction phase.
- For reasons of sound management and for the health & safety of trees.

5.4.2 No tree works are proposed.

6.0 PHASING OF THE DEVELOPMENT

6.1 It is proposed to undertake the re-development works in 2 Phases:

- Pre-commencement of Works: Erection of the tree protective fencing
- Phase 1: Main Construction Phase.
- Phase 2: Landscaping Works.

6.2 Pre-commencement Works - Tree Protective fencing

6.2.1 Tree Fence Protection to be installed in accordance with the Tree Protection Plan. Under no circumstances must the fence protection be altered without prior consent from the LA.

6.3 Phase 1: Main Construction Phase

- 6.3.1 It is recommended that construction personnel undergo an induction session prior to being allowed to work on site. At this time the Arboricultural Method Statement can be explained to all personnel and where appropriate a copy provided for their reference. In addition, a copy of the Tree Protection Plan should be placed in a readily accessible place and will be pointed out to the construction personnel before the commencement of any works in connection with this phase of the proposal.
- 6.3.2 Materials will be delivered on an as and when basis and these will be stored outside of the root protection areas of retained trees.

6.4 Phase 2: Landscaping Works

- 6.4.1 It is recommended that construction personnel undergo an induction session prior to being allowed to work on site. At this time the Arboricultural Method Statement can be explained to all personnel and where appropriate a copy provided for their reference. In addition, a copy of the Tree Protection Plan should be placed in a readily accessible place and will be pointed out to the construction personnel before the commencement of any works in connection with this phase of the proposal.
- 6.4.2 The majority of the landscaping works will occur outside the root protection areas of the adjacent trees. On the substantial completion of the works it is proposed to construct the steps. Prior to the commencement of this element the tree fence protection line will be adjusted. All works within the root protection area of the adjacent tree T4 must be carried out using handheld equipment only. Under no circumstances must machinery be used.
- 6.4.3 Whilst undertaking the works great care must be taken to preserve and work around roots. Care must be taken when working around roots greater than 25mm in diameter, and clusters of smaller roots avoiding damage to bark. In the event roots greater than 25mm in diameter are found under no circumstances will these be cut. Should it not be possible to work around roots greater than 25mm it is proposed to re-adjust the step sequence. Where roots of less than 25mm require removal, they should be cut back cleanly using secateurs or a sharp pruning saw.
- 6.4.4 Should roots be exposed for any period of time during the day and the weather is hot, to prevent the roots from dying out it is advised that moist Hessian sacking is wrapped around the exposed roots to prevent desiccation from occurring from temperature changes. The reason for this is to reduce the potential for root tip death through lack of moisture.
- 6.4.5 Any back filling should be carried out using the excavated soil, which should be worked in around any retained roots and lightly 'tamped' not compacted and respecting the original soil profile. The backfill should be left proud of surrounding levels to allow for settlement.

7.0 **UTILITY SERVICE CONNECTIONS**

- 7.1 All new services for the extension will connect to existing.

8.0 VEHICULAR MOVEMENTS

- 8.1 No vehicle movements will occur within the rpa's of the retained trees.

9.0 SITING OF TEMPORARY OFFICES, TOILETS & MATERIAL STORAGE COMPOUNDS

- 9.1 The site compound will be located outside the root protection areas of the retained trees. This will also include the delivery, storage and movement of all of these essential facilities as well as aspects such as temporary contactor parking and sitting of concrete mixing.

10.0 AVOIDING DAMAGE TO STEMS AND BRANCHES

- 10.1 Care shall be taken when planning site operations to ensure that wide or tall loads or plant with booms, jibs and counterweights, can operate without coming into contact with the retained trees. Such contact could result in serious damage to them and might make their safe retention impossible. Consequently, any transit or traverse of plant in close proximity to trees should be carried out under the supervision of a banksman to ensure adequate clearance from tree is maintained at all times.

11.0 REPORTING OF DAMAGE TO TREES AND TREE PROTECTION FENCING

- 11.1 Should any damage occur to trees noted for retention either by the above works or as the result of any other action, the damage must be reported to the site supervisor immediately. The site agent shall report up the chain of responsibility to the Arboricultural Consultant, or in their absence an appointment with an appropriately qualified Arboriculturalist, to enable remedial measures to be implemented as necessary and without delay.
- 11.2 Should protective fencing become damaged so as to impair its function in protecting trees, all works shall cease in the vicinity of the damage until the fence has been returned to standard. It shall also be recorded on the daily monitoring sheets as likewise all other issues regarding tree related issues on the site.

12.0 SITE MONITORING AND SUPERVISION

- 12.1 Ongoing Arboricultural site monitoring for the duration of the development is recommended and should be carried out by a retained Arboricultural Consultant.
- 12.2 Site monitoring should be undertaken by a qualified and experienced Arboriculturalist at pre-determined and agreed time intervals. It should take the form of regular inspections (i.e. monthly and/or during key operations), ongoing liaison with all personnel involved in the site development and with the LA. Any defects requiring rectifying must be notified to the Site Agent and the Client and copied to the LA.
- 12.3 It is recommended that the Project Arboriculturalist be present on site during the main periods of construction. Records are to be made available to the LA if required to show evidence of site monitoring (Appendix 5).

- Pre-commencement site meeting.
- Inspection of tree fence protection.
- Supervision of step construction.

- 12.4 In addition it is proposed that a site logbook is kept recording all stages of the development from the installation of the fence protection, to daily checks of the fencing through to the completion of the project. This should be made available to the LA if required to show evidence of site monitoring.
- 12.5 The LA's Arboricultural Officer will have free access to the site and report on any problem areas directly to the developer's Project Arboriculturalist, who will then visit the site and make recommendations to the developer on how best to rectify the situation and ensure implementation.

13.0 REMOVAL OF PROTECTIVE FENCING

- 13.1 When the substantial completion of the development phase has occurred, all drainage and service runs are in place, and all site machinery has been removed, and any landscaping for the principal areas of the site have been undertaken, the fence protection may be removed.

14.0 CONCLUSIONS

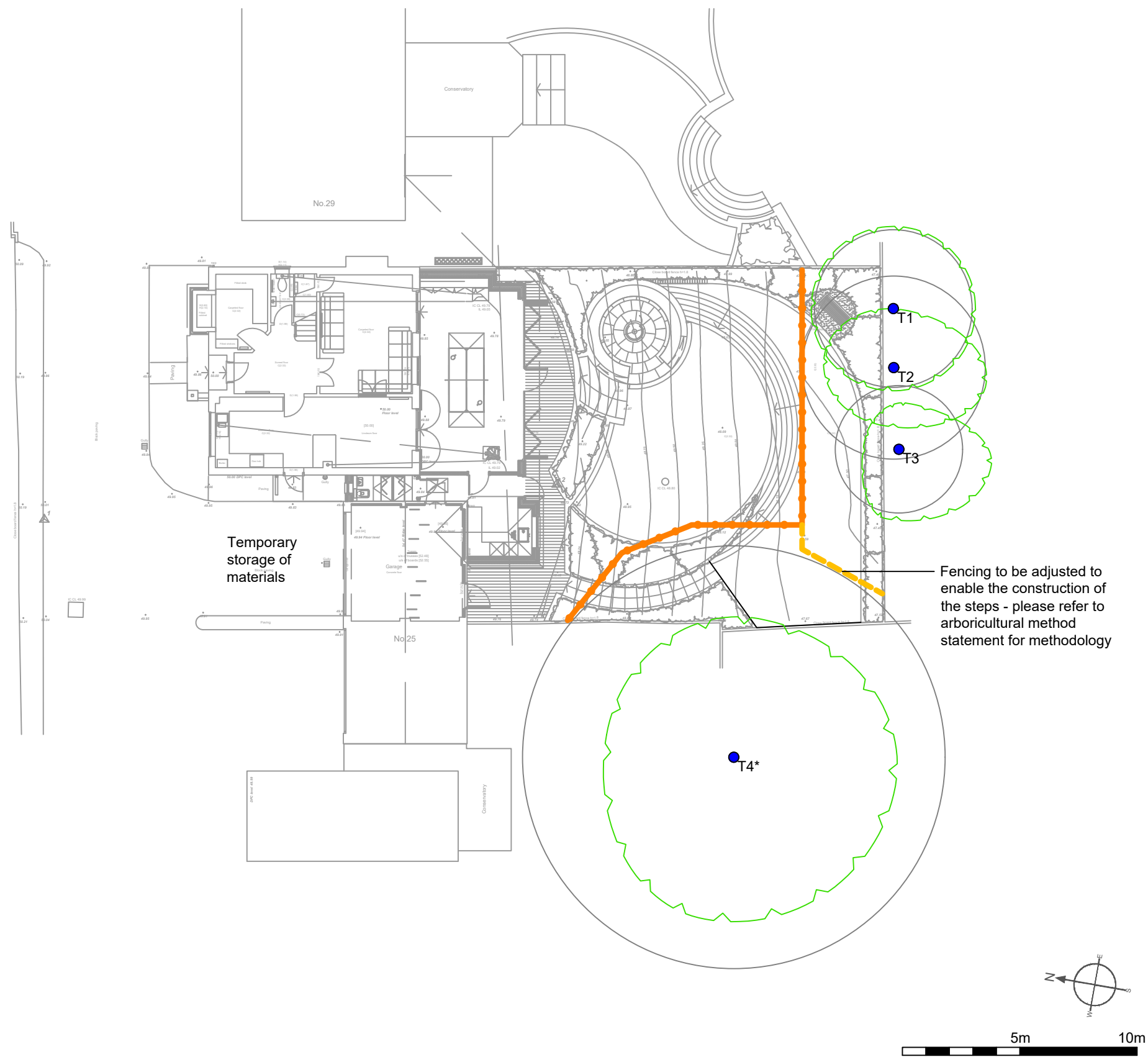
- 14.1 These development proposals have been assessed in accordance with British Standard 5837:2012 'Trees in relation to Demolition, Design & Construction – Recommendations'.
- 14.2 The proposal is only viable with the application of the recommendations within this arboricultural method statement. Sylva Consultancy has prepared this arboricultural method statement based on the information provided.

15.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

- British Standard 5837:2012 'Trees in relation to Construction – Recommendations'.
- British Standard 3998:2010 'Recommendations for Tree Works.
- Barrell, J. D. (1993) Pre-planning Tree Surveys: SULE is the Natural Progression. Arboricultural Journal 17, 33-46.
- Barrell, J. D. (1995) Pre-development Tree Assessments. In: Trees on Building Sites: Proceedings of an International Conference on Trees and Building Sites (G. W. Watson & D. Neely, eds). International Society of Arboriculture, Illinois.
- Biddle, P. G. (1998) Tree Roots and Foundations. Arboriculture Research and Information Note 142/98/EXT. Arboricultural Advisory and Information Service.
- Dobson, M. (1995) Tree Root Systems. Arboriculture Research and Information Note 130/95/ARB. Arboricultural Advisory and Information Service.

Appendix 1

Tree Protection Plan



Sylva Consultancy

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The Oxford Boaters Box, Woodstock Road, Oxford, OX2 7AH

Arboricultural Association
Fellow Member
FE593

Site: Fairfax Close	1-200@A3
Drawing Title: Tree Protection Plan	Rev A, July 2019

Key:

● Category A

● Category B

● Category C

● Category U

Category

Root Protection Area

Crown Spread

Tree Number

High Visibility Barricade Fencing

NOTES: Tree/group numbers marked with an * have approximate locations.
The original of this drawing was produced in colour - a monochrome copy should not be relied upon.

Appendix 2

Tree Protection Detail: Orange Barricade Fencing

Example of Orange Barricade Fencing



Appendix 3

Arboricultural Information



**PROTECTIVE FENCING. THIS
FENCING MUST BE
MAINTAINED IN ACCORDANCE
WITH THE APPROVED PLANS
AND DRAWINGS FOR THIS
DEVELOPMENT.**



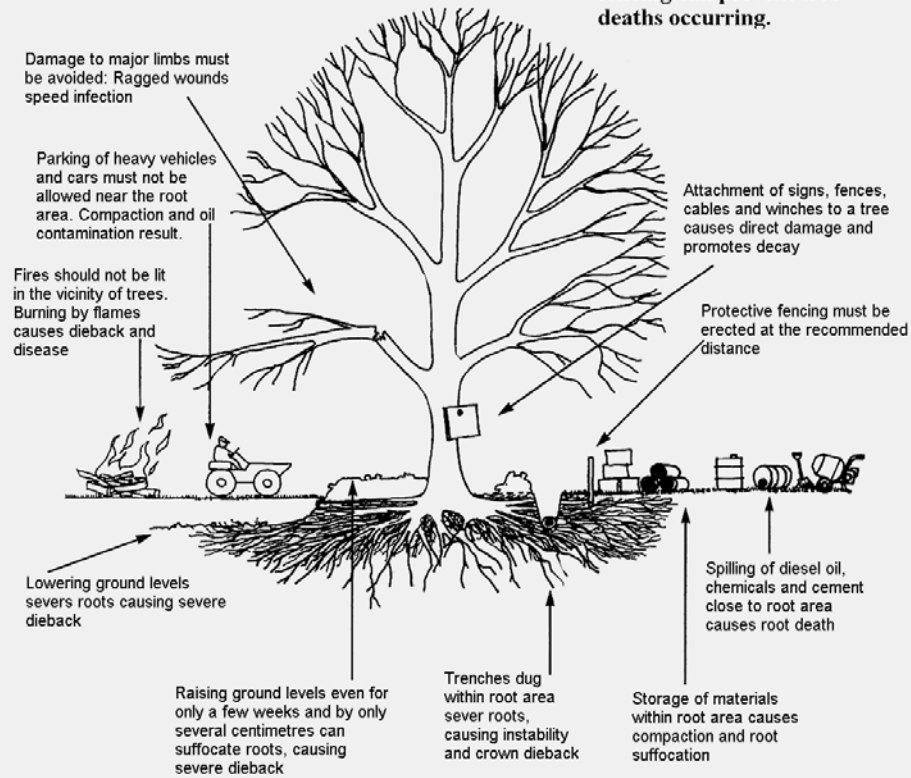
**TREE PROTECTION AREA
KEEP OUT !**

**(TOWN & COUNTRY PLANNING ACT 1990)
TREES ENCLOSED BY THIS FENCE ARE PROTECTED BY
PLANNING CONDITIONS AND/OR ARE THE SUBJECTS OF A
TREE PRESERVATION ORDER.
CONTRAVENTION OF A TREE PRESERVATION ORDER MAY
LEAD TO CRIMINAL PROSECUTION**

**ANY INCURSION INTO THE PROTECTED AREA MUST BE
WITH THE WRITTEN PERMISSION OF THE LOCAL
PLANNING AUTHORITY**

Common causes of Tree Death

The use of properly positioned protective fencing can prevent tree deaths occurring.

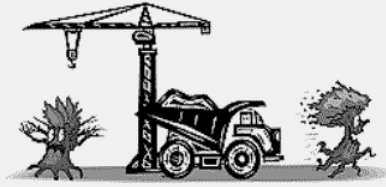


Please use copies of this as an on-site poster for personnel

Sylvatree



Construction and Trees



Why Is Fencing Erected Around Trees?

1. The major cause of damage to trees on construction sites is due to **soil compaction**.
2. Roots use the spaces between soil particles to obtain Oxygen, Water and Nutrients.
3. Heavy plant and machinery compresses (compacts) the soil, squashing out the air spaces and preventing root function.
4. A compacted soil structure will stay compacted.
5. Consequently the tree suffers and will show signs of branch die-back.
6. Symptoms such as die-back may take several years to appear.
7. Soil compaction over roots can be prevented by maintaining a fenced exclusion zone over the tree roots.
8. The exclusion zone distance is calculated using British Standard 5837.
9. Protective Fencing is installed at the calculated distance.
10. Protective Fencing is a condition of planning approval, if it is removed or repositioned the construction firm is in breach of a condition and may be subjected to legal action.

_____ Sylvatrees _____

Appendix 4

Site Monitoring & Supervision Record Sheets

ARBORICULTURAL SUPERVISION RECORDING

Client:		Planning Ref:	
Local Authority:		Date:	
Site Address			
Proposal:			
Visit Checklist	Y/N		Y/N
Tree Protection Fencing in place		Tree protection as approved	
Ground Protection in place		Ground Protection as approved	
Tree or Ground protection breached		Trees damaged	
Site Agent briefed by AC		Photographs taken	
AC briefed by Site Agent			
LPA informed			
Remedial action required			
Comments			
Recommendations			
Outcome			
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			

Signed		Print name	
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Date	
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Appendix 5

Qualifications

Fiona Bradshaw

MicFor; RFS Dip Arb;F. Arbor.A; Tech Cert (Arbor.A)

I have over 20 years' experience of arboriculture and I am the principal consultant at Sylva Consultancy. I hold the Royal Forestry Society's Professional Diploma in Arboriculture and the Arboricultural Associations Technicians Certificate. I am a Fellow member of the Arboricultural Association and a professional member of the Institute of Chartered Foresters, of which I am also a registered Consultant.

I have the benefit of both a local authority and private practice background and I am frequently instructed to provide advice and assistance relating to trees and the planning process. I am also experienced at compiling expert reports, providing evidence and also appearing as an expert witness at Public Inquires.

I am committed to my continued professional development which is reflected in my regular attendance of seminars and workshops.